# **VRL Logistics**

India | Logistics | Result Update



## Margin spurt, expect normalcy to prevail

10 February 2025

VRL Logistics (VRLL IN), with its diversified 9lk+ customer base, quality of service network, and capacity expansion, has shown its strength by undertaking price hikes (9M realization up 7% YoY). This led to 9M margins improving 280bps YoY to 16.4% even in a muted macro environment. The management expects overall performance to continue to improve in FY26, with revenue growth of 12-13% and margin of 18%. We remain cognizant of the current challenges as regards demand and competition across the industry and hence, factor in moderate revenue growth of 9% and margin of 15.8% in FY26E. We raise earnings estimates for FY25E, FY26E and FY27E by 16%, 8% and 5% respectively, given strong operational performance YTD. So, we also raise TP to INR 672 (INR 640 earlier). Maintain Buy.

Margin beat led by price hike and fuel cost saving: Q3 revenues increased 12% YoY (in line) to INR 8.25bn, led by 11% growth in realization on price hikes undertaken in Q2 (volume growth 1%). VRLL, despite challenging industry trend, was able to pass on the price hikes, led by a change in strategy (single-price model versus basic freight plus cost model earlier). The increased freight rates with rise in bulk purchase of fuel (savings of INR 5.3/liter YoY) on lower crude oil pricing resulted in an increase in EBITDA margin to 20.2%, up 740bps YoY. The management believes margins may cool off to 18% expecting stable realization and factoring in the risk of shrinking benefit of bulk fuel purchase due to fluctuation in crude price. PAT surged 3.4x YoY to INR 594mn.

Focus continues on network expansion: Since FY22, VRLL has embarked on branch network expansion to tap new markets and aid better realizations. YTD, VRLL has added 39 branches and targets to incrementally add 80-100 branches in FY26. YTD, VRLL invested INR 2.9bn to expand capacities at current hubs in Mangalore (INR 430mn), Mysore (INR 210mn) and towards the acquisition of Bengaluru hub for INR 2.3bn. The acquisition is likely to result in increasing operational efficiency through investing in automation and storage capacity. Net debt increased to INR 4.6bn from INR 2.6bn as on FY24 given the acquisition of the Bengaluru hub (INR 1.8bn debt funded).

Volumes to rebound from H2FY26: VRLL's YTDFY25 volume growth was muted at 4% versus 9% growth in FY24, on account of steep hike in realization, leading to a shift in volumes. VRLL expects demand to normalize from Q2FY26 to 8-10%. However, we remain watchful and factor in 7% demand for FY26E.

Reiterate Buy; TP raised to INR 672: On the back of healthy Q3 performance, and successful price hikes, the focus is now on volume expansion by maintaining EBITDA margin. We marginally raise our earnings estimates by 5% for FY27E.

We reiterate Buy with a higher TP of INR 672 (from INR 640), based on P/E of 30x on FY27E. Expect FY24-27E revenue, EBITDA and PAT CAGRs of 10%, 15% and 30% each.

**Key financials** 

YE March	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Revenue (INR mn)	26,278	28,886	32,076	35,008	38,564
YoY (%)	22.3	9.9	11.0	9.1	10.2
EBITDA (INR mn)	4,017	3,934	5,132	5,514	5,977
EBITDA margin (%)	15.3	13.6	16.0	15.8	15.5
Adj PAT (INR mn)	1,661	886	1,588	1,737	1,979
YoY (%)	6.4	(46.7)	79.3	9.4	13.9
Fully DEPS (INR)	18.8	10.1	18.2	19.9	22.6
RoE (%)	20.4	9.2	15.7	15.1	15.1
RoCE (%)	17.8	11.0	14.4	14.3	14.3
P/E (x)	14.5	52.1	29.2	26.7	23.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.9	12.4	9.6	8.8	7.9

Note: Pricing as on 7 February 2025; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Rating: Buy

Target Price: INR 672

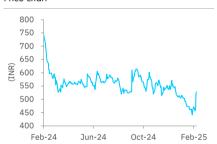
Upside: 27% **CMP: INR 528** 

As on 7 February 2025

Key data	
Bloomberg	VRLL IN
Reuters Code	VRLL. NS
Shares outstanding (mn)	87
Market cap (INR bn/USD mn)	46/528
Enterprise Value (INR bn/USD mn)	49/558
Avg daily volume 3M (INR mn/USD mn)	65/1
52 week high/low	705/432
Free float (%)	40

Note: as on 7 February 2025: Source: Bloombera

#### Price chart



Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding (%)	Q4 FY24	Q1 FY25	Q2 FY25	Q3 FY25
Promoter	60.2	60.2	60.2	60.2
% Pledged	-	-	-	-
FII	3.3	3.8	3.9	3.6
DII	26.6	25.7	25.6	25.7
Others	9.9	10.3	10.3	10.5

Source: BSE

Price performance (%)	3M	6M	12M
Nifty	(2.6)	(3.0)	7.4
VRL Logistics	(7.7)	(0.3)	(21.3)
NSE Mid-cap	(6.1)	(5.7)	8.6
NSE Small-cap	(9.4)	(7.5)	2.7

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# Financials (YE March)

Income Statement (IND mm)	FV22	EV24	FV2FF	FV2/F	FVORE
Income Statement (INR mn)  Net Revenues	<b>FY23</b> 26,278	<b>FY24</b> 28,886	<b>FY25E</b> 32,076	<b>FY26E</b> 35,008	<b>FY27E</b> 38,564
EBITDA	4,017	3,934	5,132	5,514	5,977
Add:- Non operating Income	143	211	228	247	268
OPBIDTA	4,160	4,145	5,360	5,761	6,246
Less :- Depreciation & Amortization	1,591	2,162	2,412	2,556	2,856
EBIT	2,569	1,984	2,948	3,205	3,389
Less:- Interest Expenses	543	779	831	888	751
Less:- Exceptional item	(1,571)	(5)	031	0	731
PBT	3,596	1,210	2,117	2,316	
Less :- Taxes	3,396	319	529	579	<b>2,639</b>
Reported PAT	3,232	891	1,588	1,737	1,979
Adjusted PAT Balance Sheet (INR mn)	1,661 FY23	886 FY24	1,588 FY25E	1,737 FY26E	1,979 FY27E
Share Capital	883	875	875	875	875
<del></del>				11,366	
Reserves Net worth	8,875	8,583	9,892		13,105
	9,758	9,458	10,767	12,241	13,980
Borrowings Deformed Tay (Not)	2,072	2,793	3,857	3,251	2,756
Deferred Tax (Net)	461	672	672	672	672
Other liabilities	4,563	6,315	6,531	6,754	6,986
Total Liabilities	16,854	19,237	21,827	22,917	24,393
Net Block	14,813	18,997	20,625	21,549	22,288
Add:- Capital work in progress	384	236	236	236	236
Investments	159	9	9	9	9
Cash & bank balances	752	190	1,111	1,209	1,870
Net Working Capital	(177)	(1,004)	(836)	(788)	(733)
Other Assets	922	810	682	703	724
Total Assets	16,854	19,237	21,827	22,917	24,393
Cash Flow Statement (INR mn)	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Cash profit adjusted for non-cash items	5,587	3,939	5,132	5,514	5,977
Add/Less:- Working Capital changes	(309)	784	(663)	(588)	(673)
Operating Cash Flow	5,278	4,723	4,470	4,925	5,305
Less:- Capex	5,468	6,197	4,040	3,480	3,595
Free Cash Flow	(190)	(1,474)	430	1,445	1,710
Investing Cash Flow	(167)	473	356	227	247
Financing Cash Flow	964	437	136	(1,574)	(1,295)
Net change in Cash	608	(563)	921	98	661
Ratio Analysis	FY23	FY24	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E
Income Statement Ratios (%)					
Revenue Growth	22.3	9.9	11.0	9.1	10.2
EBITDA Growth	7.2	(2.0)	30.4	7.4	8.4
PAT Growth	101.9	(72.4)	78.3	9.4	13.9
EBITDA Margin	15.3	13.6	16.0	15.8	15.5
Net Margin	12.3	3.1	4.9	5.0	5.1
Return & Liquidity Ratios (%)					
Net Debt/Equity (x)	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
ROE (%)	20.4	9.2	15.7	15.1	15.1
ROCE (%)	17.8	11.0	14.4	14.3	14.3
Per Share data & Valuation Ratios					
Reported EPS (INR)	36.6	10.2	18.2	19.9	22.6
Adjusted EPS (INR)	18.8	10.1	18.2	19.9	22.6
EPS Growth (%)	101.9	(72.2)	78.3	9.4	13.9
DPS (INR)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
P/E (x)	14.5	52.1	29.2	26.7	23.4
EV/EBITDA (x)	11.9	12.4	9.6	8.8	7.9
EV/Sales (x)	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2
Core Price/Book (x)	4.8	4.9	4.3	3.8	3.3
Dividend Yield (%)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Dividend Heta (70)	0.9	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9

Expect revenue/EBITDA/PAT CAGR of 10%/15%/30%.

Margins likely to improve on cost optimization along with successful price hike

Note: Pricing as on 7 February 2025; Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate



Volume growth to gradually

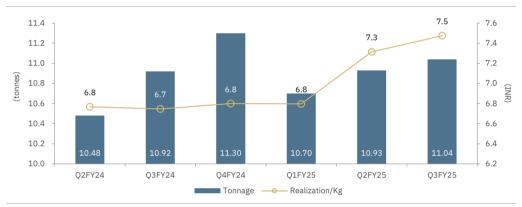
pick up from H2FY26

#### **Quarterly financials**

YE March (INR mn)	Q3FY25	Q3FY24	YoY (%)	Q2FY25	QoQ (%)	Q3FY25E	Variance (%)
Net sales	8,252	7,367	12.0	7,995	3.2	8,347	(1.1)
EBITDA	1,664	943	76.4	1,330	25.1	1,319	26.2
EBITDA margins (%)	20.2	12.8		16.6		15.8	
Other income	57	24	135.8	25	127.4	30	87.2
Interest	241	213	12.9	224	7.3	225	7.0
Depreciation	646	568	13.8	638	1.2	652	(0.9)
PBT	835	187	346.8	493	69.4	472	76.6
Tax	240	50	377.9	135	78.3	119	101.9
Effective tax rate (%)	28.8	26.9		27.4		25.2	
Adjusted PAT	594	136	335.3	358	66.1	353	68.1
NPM (%)	7.2	1.9		4.5		4.2	
Basic EPS (INR)	6.8	1.6	335.3	4.1	66.1	4.0	68.1

Source: Company, Elara Securities Estimate

Exhibit 1: Volume growth muted on steep price hike, likely to improve gradually



Source: Company, Elara Securities Research

**Exhibit 2: Valuation summary** 

Particulars	
PAT	1,979
Target P/E multiple (x)	30
Value of business	59,369
No. of shares (mn)	88
Target price (INR)	672
Upside	27

Note: Pricing as on 7 February 2025; Source: Elara Securities Estimate

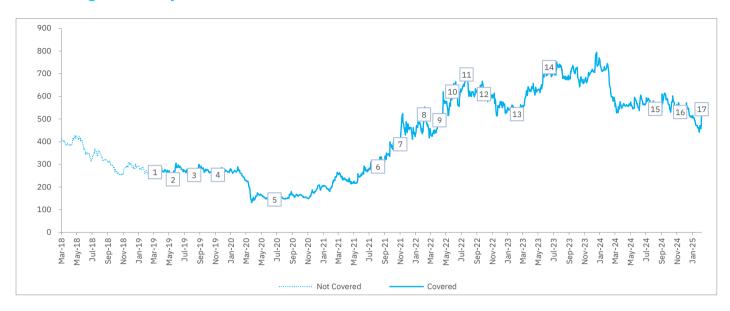
**Exhibit 3: Change in estimates** 

(INR mn)		Earlier			Revised			% Change		
	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	FY25E	FY26E	FY27E	
Revenue	32,076	35,662	40,013	32,076	35,008	38,564	0.0	(1.8)	(3.6)	
EBITDA	4,811	5,421	6,122	5,132	5,514	5,977	6.7	1.7	(2.4)	
Adj. PAT	1,364	1,607	1,885	1,588	1,737	1,979	16.4	8.1	5.0	
TP (INR)			640			672			5	

Source: Elara Securities Estimate



## **Coverage History**



	Date	Rating	Target Price	Closing Price
11	22-Jul-2022	Buy	INR 813	INR 681
12	29-Sep-2022	Buy	INR 780	INR 595
13	7-Feb-2023	Buy	INR 810	INR 510
14	1-Jun-2023	Buy	INR 890	INR743
15	7-Aug-2024	Buy	INR 758	INR 530
16	14-Nov-2024	Buy	INR 640	INR 515
17	7-Feb-2025	Buy	INR 672	INR 528

### Guide to Research Rating

BUY Absolute Return >+20%

ACCUMULATE Absolute Return +5% to +20%

REDUCE Absolute Return -5% to +5%

SELL Absolute Return < -5%



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